

## Make new friends, but keep the old

As Karimu continues to visit Dareda Kati Village year after year, we're bound to meet new people. The village is remote from Tanzania's major cities, but the fact that its tiny public health clinic must serve a population of over forty thousand from Dareda Kati itself and several surrounding rural villages suggests the potential for making new friends.

This past June and July our new friends included Dr. Joyce Mauki, recently put in charge of the clinic that had no water until Karimu installed plumbing in 2012. By the end of this summer's visit, the clinic also had electricity, thanks to WE CARE Solar's donation of a Solar Suitcase, whose installation was supervised by three-time Karimu volunteer Ed Glysson.

We know we have much more work to do at the clinic. Karimu Board Member Dr. Susan Hughmanick, on her fourth trip to Dareda Kati, imported a hundred and fifty pounds of medical supplies and offered two days of safe-birth training to more than thirty midwives—including many old Karimu friends. Yet we don't deceive ourselves that local mothers and babies are out of danger in a country where the maternal and infant mortality rates are twenty-two and seven times higher, respectively, than in the U.S.



A new friendship  
(left)  
Dr. Joyce and  
Dr. Susan (below)



Installing the Solar Suitcase (above)

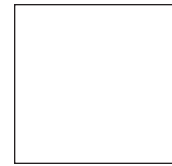
Irrigation ditch at Ufani Primary farm (right)



Karimu also made new friends at Dareda Kati Primary School by working alongside Tanzanian builders to renovate four classrooms that had dirt floors, gaping holes for doors and windows, and no paint. Ufani Primary School looked just as bad or worse when Karimu began its work, in 2008, but now the government rankings place Ufani Primary's facility second best out of one hundred and thirty primary schools in northeastern Tanzania's sprawling Babati District.

As Karimu considers additional improvements to Dareda Kati Primary, Ufani Primary benefits from the latest Karimu project there, an irrigation ditch to boost productivity at the small but thriving farm that pays for the school's maintenance and might someday help feed its students.





Although nobody from Karimu had a chance to attend the August 2014 dedication of a five-thousand-liter holding tank for Bacho Primary School, the news of the tank's effects thrilled us. Before, thirsty students had to choose between drinking from a nearby creek that the village's cattle and goats ford every day, or climbing the Great Rift Valley Escarpment that rises overhead to access the clean water sources on its slope. But another of our new friends, the recently appointed head teacher, Paul, exults over how much the health of his students has improved because of the water that is piped down the Escarpment to the new tank.



Painting Dareda Kati Primary (left)  
UFAGRO officers at monthly meeting (below)

Dr. Hughmanick, Ed, and his wife Linda Presser—another dedicated three-timer—led the handful of Karimu volunteers who were guests at the monthly meeting of UFAGRO (Ufani Agricultural Association), the village's microborrowing group. Loans from Karimu and monthly dues have enabled UFAGRO to triple its membership to almost a hundred



and fifty in less than three years, and we expect further growth. One of Karimu's oldest friends and most trusted advisors in Dareda Kati, Ufani Primary School assistant head teacher Daniel Amma, delivered a glowing report on the group's success.

The importance to the Karimu Board Members of making new friends while keeping old ones explains why none of us accept payment for our work: it's friendship that brings us back to Dareda Kati, and you don't expect to be paid for helping your friends.



Making art in Dareda Kati Primary (above)  
Volunteers and Tanzanian builders (right)



So watching our volunteers make friends gives us joy and explains why some of them keep returning to the village. Besides Ed and Linda, this year's group included a four-time volunteer, two more three-timers, and one two-time volunteer, as well as a number of brand-new ones. They were all game for whatever each new day brought, from bricklaying to art projects with the schoolchildren to portraying delivering mothers in the midwives' training skits. Like the villagers themselves, the volunteers are also Karimu's friends.